

## Message Text

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ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02

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R 130700Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1292

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 0917

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: BPRO, PFOR, CD, US

SUBJ: GOC COMMENTS ON EXIM BANK NEGATIVE DECISION ON TELE-  
COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT AND ATTITUDES OF USG

REF: STATE 80279

1. MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS KAMOUGUE CALLED ME IN APRIL 9  
FOR MEETING WITH MINISTER TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAHAMAT. KAMOUGUE  
STATED THAT HE PRESUMED THAT PRESENCE MAHAMAT WOULD INDICATE  
REASON FOR CONVOCAATION, AND I REPLIED THAT MEETING NOT UNEXPECTED.

2. KAMOUGUE ONCE AGAIN PRESENTED AT SOME LENGTH IMPORTANCE  
GOC ATTACHES TO GT&E TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT, AND PREFERENCE  
THAT PROJECT BE ACCOMPLISHED BY AMERICAN FIRM. MAHAMAT STRESSED  
THAT THIS PORTION PROJECT FIRST LINK ONLY IN EXTENSIVE TELE-  
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK WHICH WOULD COVER COUNTRY BY EARLY EIGHTIES.  
I REPLIED THAT I PERSONALLY REGRETTED THAT EXIM BANK HAD NOT  
JUDGED THE PROJECT FEASIBLE FROM ECONOMIC VIEWPOINT, BUT STRESSED  
THAT EXIM BANK OF BANKERS WHO REQUIRED BY U.S. LAW TO JUDGE  
PROJECTS ON ECONOMIC MERITS AND LIKELIHOOD OF DEBT BEING  
SERVICED ON SCHEDULE. EXIM BANK EVIDENTLY FELT THAT WITH WELL-  
PUBLICIZED ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING CHAD AT MOMENT THIS NOT TIME  
FOR GOC ASSUME NEW LARGE EXTERNAL DEBT FOR THIS PROJECT.  
I SUGGESTED THAT GOC SHOULD NOW BEGIN EXAMINE POSSIBILITY LOAN  
FROM ONE OF NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL BANKS WHICH EMPHASIZED  
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. MAHAMAT, WHO OBVIOUSLY UPSET, MAIN-

TAINED THAT TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT WAS SELF-CONTAINED AND COULD BE AMORTIZED BY FOREIGN EXCHANGE SAVINGS IT WOULD ACHIEVE OVER RELATIVELY BRIEF PERIOD. FURTHER, HE AND GOC HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT PROSPECTS GOOD FOR FINANCING FROM EXIM AND AS RESULT HAD RESISTED PRESSURE CONCLUDE AGREEMENT WITH "OTHERS" (I.E., FRENCH), AND NOW HAD NOTHING TO SHOW BUT FOUR LOST MONTHS.

3. KAMOUGUE, AFTER EXPRESSING HIS FULL AGREEMENT WITH MAHAMAT PRESENTATION, THEN WONDERED ALOUD WHY IT WAS THAT WHILE "OTHERS" (MEANING SOVIETS AND FRENCH) HAD MADE POINT BEING HELPFUL IN MEETING NEW REGIME'S NEEDS IN FIRST YEAR OF GOVERNMENT, USG SEEMED CONTINUOUSLY RELUCTANT. GOC, HE SAID, PREPARING BALANCE SHEET (BILAN) OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN FIRST YEAR, AND SPEAKING FRANKLY, THERE WAS NOT MUCH THAT COULD BE ENTERED UNDER AMERICAN COLUMN. KAXBUGUE ASKED WHAT I WOULD DO IN HIS PLACE WITH REGARD TO BILAN. I REPLIED THAT I WOULD NOT PRESUME TO SUGGEST TO HIM HOW HE MIGHT PREPARE IT. I SUGGESTED HE CONSIDER AMERICAN INTERESTS AND CHADIAN INTERESTS AS TWO SEPARATE CIRCLES WHICH OVERLAP. IN AREA COMMON TO BOTH CIRCLES, COOPERATION IS POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE. IN OTHER AREAS IT IS DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE. THUS US CONGRESS HAS MADE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CERTAIN TYPES DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN FIELDS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE AND PUBLIC HEALTH, AS DEMONSTRATED BY CROP PROTECTION ACCORD (DOLS 176,000) TO BE SIGNED FOLLOWING DAY, AND PROGRESS ON OTHER PROJECTS. CONSIDERABLE FURTHER COOPERATION IS BEING WORKED ON AT MOMENT BY GOC AND US TECHNICIANS. BUT OTHER AREAS WHICH WE HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED, I SAID, IMPLYING ARMS AS WELL AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ARE NOT INCLUDED IN OUR DEVELOPMENTAL FRAMEWORK ALTHOUGH WE WOULD BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE IN ASSISTING IN COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS. KAMOUGUE THEN TURNED TO MAHAMAT AND SAID "WELL, I GUESS WE HAVE DONE ALL THAT WE CAN DO," TO WHICH MAHAMAT REPLIED THAT IT A SHAME BUT THAT HE, TOO, DID NOT KNOW WHAT ELSE MIGHT BE DONE. MEETING ENDED WITH DISCUSSIONS ARRANGEMENTS SIGNING AID AND SELF-HELP AGREEMENTS NEXT DAY.

4. COMMENT: BOTH MINISTERS, AS ALWAYS, CORDIAL AND COURTEOUS, AND TONE CONVEYED WAS ONE OF SORROW MORE THAN ANGER. DESPITE MY EFFORTS CONVINCING MINISTERS PROJECT TURN-DOWN DECIDED PURELY ON ECONOMIC ASPECTS THIS INDIVIDUAL CASE, BOTH MINISTERS (AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESIDENT MALLOUM) MAY WELL CONSIDER IT AS PART SOME ILL-DEFINED OVERALL USG STRATEGY. IN THIS RESPECT, NOTIFICATION TO GOC MAY HAVE HAD LESS OF IMPACT HAD IT OCCURRED SOMEWHAT EARLIER OR AFTER APRIL 13 ANNIVERSARY. DWYER

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